

HB 1144 -- PREVAILING WAGE ON HOUSING PROJECTS

SPONSOR: White

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 7 to 3.

This bill prohibits the Missouri Housing Development Commission from requiring a prevailing hourly wage to be paid to a contractor on a housing project eligible for a housing tax credit if the project is in a Governor-declared disaster area.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that prevailing wages were meant to apply to public works projects and that the projects of the Missouri Housing Development Commission are not appropriately deemed public works projects.

Testifying for the bill were Representative White; Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, Missouri Housing Development Commission; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that because a state generates its revenue through income tax, potentially higher wages would help the state's bottom line. The state granted certain authority to the Missouri Housing Development Commission and it should be allowed to use that authority as it sees fit.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri AFL-CIO; Tim Green, St. Louis Electrical Connection; St. Louis Building and Construction Trades Council; United Steelworkers District 11; Missouri Laborers Legislative Committee; Carpenters District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity; International Union of Painters and Allied Trades; Plumbers and Pipefitters Local #562; Mechanical Contractors Association of Kansas City; Mechanical Contractors Association - Eastern Missouri; and United Transportation Union.